

T O R R A N C E

Press Release

Police Department

Torrance Police Department asks residents to take precautions and avoid contact with coyotes and other wild life

A resident in Old Torrance (North of Sepulveda and East of Crenshaw) recently reported to the Torrance Police Department Animal Control Section that their pet was attacked in the backyard of their residence by a coyote. Residents have also reported numerous coyote sightings in the residential areas not only in Old Torrance but also in the Southeast portion of Torrance.

According to the California Department of Fish and Game, coyotes are found throughout most of California and their estimated population ranges from 250,000 to 750,000. Coyotes play an important role in the ecosystem, helping to keep rodent populations under control, and they are by nature fearful of humans. If they are given access to human food and garbage; however, they may become more aggressive.

The California Department of Fish and Game also reports the chances of encountering a coyote will likely increase over the next several months as coyotes bear litters during April and May and the adult coyotes caring for their young will need to forage for more food.

To avoid problems with coyotes, people should follow these guidelines:

- Never feed or attempt to tame coyotes.
- Do not leave small children or pets outside unattended.
- Install motion-sensing lighting around the house.
- Trim ground-level shrubbery to reduce hiding places.
- Put garbage in tightly closed containers.
- Remove sources of pet food and water
- Bring pets in at night.
- Pick up fallen fruit and cover compost piles

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- If followed by a coyote, make loud noises. If this fails, throw rocks in the animal's direction.
- Ask your neighbors to follow these tips

The Torrance Police Department also asks that coyote sightings be reported to Torrance Animal Control at (310) 618-3850. If the coyote is acting aggressively, call 9-1-1.

For more information on coyote prevention tips, visit www.dfg.ca.gov/keepmewild/coyote.html.

Lieutenant Kyle Goffney
Traffic and Special Events Division Commander
Torrance Police Department
310 618-5557

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